

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL BATLOW

2017 KINDERGARTEN TO YEAR 6 INFORMATION BOOK

PEACE, LOVE, JOY



Welcome to St. Mary's School, Batlow!

Batlow is a small country town located at the foot of the beautiful Snowy Mountains. *St Mary's School* caters for the compulsory years of schooling from Kindergarten to Year 6.

The school is part of the Canberra/Goulburn Archdiocese and is administered by the Catholic Education Office in Canberra. *St. Mary's* is a small school with a current enrolment of 53 students from Kindergarten through to Year 6. The school is committed to providing Christian values and excellence in education to the Batlow region.

At *St Mary's*, we aim to develop the whole child, academically, socially, spiritually, morally and physically. Due to our small size, we like to consider ourselves as a large family, where every child is welcomed and treated with respect and dignity.

St. Mary's School Vision Statement

*Branch Out, Blossom and
Grow at St Mary's*



St. Mary's School Mission Statement

Branch out and aspire to achieve your best.
Blossom an enthusiasm for learning.
Grow in gentleness and compassion like our
Patron Saint Mary.

ST. MARY'S OFFERS YOU AND YOUR CHILD:

SMALL CLASSES:

Class sizes are kept to a minimum at St. Mary's. Therefore we can cater more effectively for each child and provide greater individual attention. Due to the size of the school, a very warm, caring and nurturing atmosphere is provided. The school is often referred to as a loving family, where each child is valued and respected as an individual.

LITERACY:

The Inquiry approach is utilised to develop literacy skills from K-6. The aim of this approach is to help students develop a life time love of reading and writing. Teachers use the Inquiry approach to assist in meeting individual student need.



- Students participate in Sustained Silent Reading (SSR) and Sustained Silent Writing (SSW) every day.
- Teachers conference with each child through the week giving students feedback on reading and writing
- Literacy groups are then focused around the Inquiry and activities are designed specifically to support this.
- Writing celebrations are held at the end of term where students are involved in publishing their own stories and reading them to parents/carers.

The classroom teacher is supported by another literacy teacher or the Learning Support Assistant each day. This enables more specialised teaching and individualised teaching.

Parent helpers are always welcome.

MATHEMATICS:

The Modelled, Shared, Guided and Independent approach is also utilised to develop numeracy skills from K-6. The Mathematics block includes a numeracy based warm up, followed by mathematical based activities that encourage and foster individual student achievement.

Problem Solving strategies are also taught on a regular basis to enable students to apply strategies taught to everyday situations.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:



Our whole curriculum and school environment is centred on the Christian values of respect for one another and appreciating each other for who they are. Jesus Christ is our role model. We respect all other religions at our school and aim to teach the children to reflect and respond to different issues and values.

The sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion/Eucharist and Confirmation are Parish based with lessons taught by the Parish Coordinator (Sr. Carmel Piffero) before weekend Mass. The school fully involves itself in the Sacraments and regards them as special celebrations within the Church and school.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:

Information Technology is an integral part of the students' education at St. Mary's. Each classroom is equipped with wireless laptops, iPads and the latest technology to support students in their learning and education. Edmodo is an interactive learning platform that enables teachers to set tasks while allowing students and parents to communicate about school and homework activities.

All classrooms are equipped with Interactive Whiteboards (IWB's) and these are used regularly as part of classroom teaching and learning activities.

EVERY student will receive their own personal Ipad for classroom and home use. The Ipad's are owned by the school but each student has access to their own IT on a daily basis to complement class lessons and homework activities. Parents must sign an iPad Agreement Form BEFORE students may take them home. IPads will need to be replaced by the family if damaged or stolen. An ICT agreement must also be signed by students and families before students have access to the school internet and ICT facilities.

HOMEWORK:

Homework is given in all grades from Kindergarten to Year 6 each week. Reading is encouraged EVERY night for all students K-6.

Homework activities vary from classroom to classroom. Class teacher will inform parents of homework expectations at the Parent Information evening held every year early in Term 1.

St. Mary's values the importance of homework and believes that it helps to develop consistent study habits, responsibility and discipline as well as preparing the children for high school.

IPad's have been incorporated into homework activities and some activities are set to be completed on the iPad. Students are not disadvantaged if families prefer not to take the iPads home.



REPORTING:

'Learning Journeys' are a vital way to communicate students' individual achievements. Students set a 'Learning Goal' at the start of each semester and these are laminated and placed on each student's desk. Regular assessment is conducted over the semester before report time. In Term 3 parents/carers are invited to take a 'learning journey' through their child's classroom and bookwork. This is prior to a parent/teacher interview. Parents/carers have the option to have their child attend the interview too. A new 'Learning Goal' is then set for Semester Two. Communication between parent/carer and teacher, on student achievement, is paramount at St. Mary's and teachers are in constant communication if difficulties or concerns arise. Parents are very welcome to make an appointment to speak to their child's class teacher at any mutually convenient time.

CLASSROOM HELPERS:

Parents, grandparents and carers are very welcome to become classroom helpers to assist in all subject areas, particularly maths and reading. All helpers will require a WWCC clearance before they can assist with school activities.

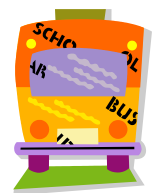
EXCURSIONS:

Excursions are an important part of your child's education at St. Mary's and each class has the opportunity to participate in one or more excursions throughout the year.

Year 4/5/6 participate in overnight excursions usually between Canberra and Sydney.

These excursions are for the duration of three days and two nights.

K/1 and Year 2/3 children participate in their own classroom excursions throughout the year.



LEARNING SUPPORT TEACHER & ASSISTANT:

A Learning Support Teacher (LST) and a Learning Support Assistant (LSA) are employed at St Mary's to support students with individual learning needs. These staff members work in the classrooms providing support for individual students as needed.

SPORT REPRESENTATION:

St Mary's students have regular opportunities to represent the school at sport-including Swimming, Athletics and Cross-Country. The children also participate in various Gala Days i.e. soccer, touch football, netball. Where possible we join with other schools for sporting activities to enhance competition and socialisation, particularly in the Mortimer and Trent Barrett Shield Rugby League Competitions etc





BUDDY SYSTEM:

A Year 6 and Kindergarten buddy system operates very successfully. The Year 6 students are given the responsibility of looking after a Kindergarten child for the whole year which enables the Kindergarten students' transition into school life to be as smooth and as happy as possible.

YEAR 6 LEADERS:

EVERY student in Year 6 becomes a school leader. At the beginning of the school year the students in Year 6 are assigned an area of responsibility within the school e.g. Sport Specialist, Hospitality Hosts, Media Moguls etc. The students are also called upon to represent the school at various community events and to organise 'fun' events at school. They also have the responsibility of running assemblies and performing public speaking obligations.

ST MARY'S COMMUNITY COUNCIL:

St. Mary's has a very successful Parent Community Council which is very welcoming and extremely hard working. Meetings are held twice a term. The Community Council's major role is supporting school activities and fundraising. Various fundraisers are held throughout the year and each family is asked to support these. The Community Council also has smaller committees that take care of a special area of the school eg Fundraising/ Uniform. Each committee is responsible for their area and they may meet at a time convenient to the group. Ideas raised are brought to the Community Council Meeting where the ideas are discussed and a decision made.

CANTEEN:

The students from St Mary's are able to purchase their lunch from Batlow Technology School canteen five days per week. The students fill in a lunch order and place the order with correct money in the basket located in the weather shed. Year 5/6 students collect the orders at lunch time to distribute to the individual students. Year 5/6 children also operate our own canteen at recess and lunchtime to sell the smaller items (Monday to Thursday only). A variety of healthier type snack items are available for sale.

LIBRARY:

Children have access to the School Library on a daily basis. Each week the children are taught a specific library lesson and have the opportunity to borrow books. Library days vary.



SCHOOL BANKING:

The school participates in the Commonwealth Bank's School Banking Program. St. Mary's banking day is Monday.

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER:

A school newsletter is produced weekly and is sent home every Tuesday. The newsletter keeps parents informed of recent happenings at St. Mary's, future events, Community Council news and permission notes. The newsletter is also available on the school website www.stmarysbatlow.nsw.edu.au each week.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE:

It is a legal requirement that children attend school from 9.00am to 3.15pm five days a week at St. Mary's.

ABSENCES: All absences from school must be explained in the form of a note from parents/guardians. For all known absences in advance, an 'Application for Student Exemption Form' must be completed.

This is a legal requirement, as the school has to keep class rolls and absence notes on file for seven years.



SCHOOL LUNCHES:

A nutritious recess and lunch is essential for productive learning. The school runs a 'Crunch and Sip' Program where the students are encouraged to bring a piece of fruit or vegetable to crunch and water to sip at the start of each day. We also encourage fruit first at recess, where the children must eat a piece of fruit before their other food. Soft drink is not permitted and lollies/chips/chocolates are to be kept to a minimum. In winter food cannot be heated in the school microwave due to Work, Health & Safety requirements.



MONIES:

All money sent to the school must be placed in an envelope with your child's name and what the money is for clearly written on the front. A money/notes box is located in the office where the students are encouraged to place their envelopes upon arrival at school. Payment can also be made directly into the *St Mary's School Account BSB 062-786 Acc 000010032 for all excursions, performances etc. Please add the family name and what the payment is for.*

*Uniform can also be paid into the Community Council Account
BSB 062-786 Account Number 000027184*

AFTERNOON PICK-UP:

Parents are asked to either wait at the front gate or near the weather shed to pick up children in the afternoon. The students are dismissed after line-up at 3.15pm and walked by a teacher to the front gate. Parents are asked to not sit in cars and call out to the children across the road, as this is highly dangerous. Parking is not permitted either side of the school gate. This is clearly marked with 'No Stopping' signs. The school gate is to be kept clear at all times.

SCHOOL BUSES:

Mr. Worrick Shaw owns and operates the local school bus service. If your child will be travelling to or from school by bus, Mr. Shaw needs to be contacted by you directly. (69491128) Each afternoon the children are walked orderly to the bus stop, located on Pioneer Street by a staff member and are supervised onto the buses.



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL UNIFORM: St. Mary's School aims to develop a sense of pride in the students and their appearance. Therefore as part of enrolling at St. Mary's, correct school uniform must be worn at all times. If your child is out of uniform for any reason, a note stating the reason must be sent to school with your child on the day they are out of uniform.

St. Mary's adopts the policy 'NO HAT, NO PLAY', during Terms 1 and 4. It is recommended however that the children bring a hat to school every day. Second hand items are sometimes available and require a donation.

Please see Mrs Korn for all enquiries.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL UNIFORM

SUMMER

Girls

Check dress
Blue shirt/navy dress shorts
White socks
Black shoes/sandals
School hat

Boys

Blue shirt
Grey shorts
Black shoes/sandals
Grey socks
School hat

WINTER

Girls

Sky blue skivvy
or blue shirt
Navy pants

Navy jumper (embroidered emblem)
White socks/navy stockings
Black shoes/boots

Boys

Sky blue skivvy
or blue shirt
Grey pants
Navy jumper
Grey socks
Black shoes/boots

SPORTS UNIFORM

Girls

Sky blue polo t-shirt with embroidered school emblem. (Girls & Boys)
Navy sports shorts
White Socks
Navy tracksuit pants
Red polar fleece jumper(embroidered)

Boys

Navy blue sports shorts
White socks
Navy tracksuit pants
Red polar fleece jumper (embroidered)

Sport Shoes : Mainly white with blue/red markings only please.

NO COLOURED JOGGERS PLEASE

NAVY BLUE WINTER COATS ALSO AVAILABLE.

- All articles of clothing **MUST** be clearly marked.
- All children are expected to wear the uniform listed above.
- Students **MUST** wear hats during all outside activities in Terms 1,3 & 4.
- **ALL ITEMS MUST BE PURCHASED THROUGH THE SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP EXCEPT BLACK SHOES/SOCKS and STOCKINGS.**

SCHOOL FEES 2016

School Fees at St. Mary's School consist of a Tuition Fee of \$268 per family per term and school determined local levies. The Tuition Fee is sent directly to the Catholic Education Office. For families who have a child attending High School also in the Canberra/Goulburn Archdiocese there is a 50% discount in the Tuition Fee that is paid to the primary school. The school determined local levies are set by the St. Mary's Community Council. A sibling reduction has been built into the local levies.

	<u>1st Child</u>	<u>2nd Child</u>	<u>3rd Child</u>
Resource Levy	\$36	\$30	\$20
Utility Levy	\$40	\$35.00	\$29
Tuition Fee	\$276 Family Fee per term		
Grounds Levy	\$35 Family Fee per term		
Building Contribution	\$43 Family Fee per term		
Cleaning Levy	\$54 Family Fee per term		
Information & Technology Levy	\$37 Family Fee per term		
Maintenance Levy	\$44 Family Fee per term		
<u>TOTAL:</u>	1 child per term	\$565.00	
	2 children	\$630.00	
	3 or more children	\$679.00	

Fees are to be paid using a Direct Debit System. Payments are deducted from a nominated account on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis.

Eg for 1 child

Payments per week \$43.50 Per fortnight \$87.00 Per month \$189.00

For 2 children

Payments per week \$49.00 Per fortnight \$97.00 Per month \$210.00

If at any stage there is genuine financial hardship, families are encouraged to contact the Principal, Mrs Chris Baron (69491270) or the Parish Co-ordinator, Sister Carmel Piffero (69462049) to discuss the matter.

ST MARY'S SCHOOL PRAYER

Dear God,

In everything that we think, say and do today,

May others see that you live in each one of us.

Please help all of us at St Mary's to show care, concern and mercy towards others.

Mary our mother look after us. AMEN

ENROLMENT AGE: Children commencing school in Kindergarten should be (5) five years of age before the 30th April in the year of enrolment. Some exceptional circumstances can however apply. Early enrolment process involves a series of meetings with the school and a representative from the Catholic Education Office Special Needs Team. Enrolment is not guaranteed.

Parents enrolling their child in a Catholic Systemic School must complete the official enrolment form and return it to school with a photocopy of the child's Birth Certificate, Baptismal/Christening Certificate (if applicable) and Immunisation Record.

Parents must be prepared to abide by the provisions of the enrolment form, especially in regard to supporting the school with the Catholic Education of their child, wearing correct school uniform and matters dealing with the Pastoral Care and Fair Discipline Policy.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL STAFF: The staff at St. Mary's School are all experienced and very dedicated professionals who are up to date on current educational practices and regularly attend professional development.

Our current 2016 staff are.....

Principal

Mrs. Christine Baron

Religious Education Coordinator

Mrs Jannine Richards

Year 4/5/6 Teacher

Mrs Jannine Richards/Mrs Joanne Shore

Year 2/3

Mrs Libby Black/Miss Jenna Mitchell

Year K/1 Teacher

Miss Sarah Collins

NIP/Library/RFF

Mrs Liz Murray

Aboriginal Education Worker

Ms Sarah Holland

Literacy/Numeracy Support Teacher Year K-6

Mrs Christine Baron

Learning Support Assistant

Mrs Kerrie Ambrose/Mrs Kate Dobbie

School Finance

Mrs Tricia Toohey

School Admin Officer

Mrs Tricia Toohey/Ms Tracee Holland